

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-05 CCO-00 MCT-02 HA-05
FBOE-00 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 CA-01 A-01 SCS-06
OMB-01 SY-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 /098 W
-----011018 211521Z /53

O 211433Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1743
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS LA PAZ 5742

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL
SUBJECT: STATE OF SIEGE DECLARED IN REACTION TO REPORTED
PRO-PEREDA UPRISING IN SANTA CRUZ

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ELEMENTS HAVE REPORTEDLY
SEIZED THE RADIO STATIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION CENTERS IN
SANTA CRUZ AND CALLED FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR TURNING OVER POWER
TO GENERAL PEREDA. PEREDA IS IN SANTA CRUZ BUT THERE IS NO
INDICATION THAT HE IS LEADING THE ACTIVITY. CIVILIAN
ELEMENTS HAVE REPORTEDLY ALSO SEIZED THE RADIO STATIONS IN
COCHABAMBA. THE GOB HAS DECLARED A STATE OF SEIGE THROUGH-
OUT THE COUNTRY. IN LA PAZ TROOPS HAVE TAKEN UP POSITIONS IN
CERTAIN KEY AREAS OF THE CITY, BUT OTHERWISE THE CITY REMAINS
QUIET AND MOST ACTIVITY IS CONTINUING NORMALLY. THERE IS
NO INDICATION YET THAT ANY MILITARY ELEMENTS OUTSIDE OF
SANTA CRUZ HAVE JOINED THE PRO-PEREDA MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.
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2. GOB HAS DECLARED A STATE OF SEIGE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY
IN REACTION TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN EFFORT BY MILITARY AND
CIVILIAN EFFORTS IN SANTA CRUZ AND BY CIVILIAN ELEMENTS IN
COCHABAMBA IN FAVOR OF GENERAL PEREDA.

3. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SAYS

ONLY THAT BECAUSE OF A "REACTION" IN SANTA CRUZ TO THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COURT DECISION TO ANNUL THE ELECTIONS A STATE OF SEIGE HAS BEEN DECLARED SUSPENDING ALL SCHOOL ACTIVITY AND PROHIBITING ALL PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS BUT OTHERWISE NOT INTERFERING IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, PRINCIPALLY FROM THE DAILY EL DIARIO, ELEMENTS BELONGING TO THE UNP (PEREDA COALITION) IN SANTA CRUZ DECLARED A "NATIONALIST REVOLUTION" AT ABOUT MIDNIGHT WITH THE PURPOSE OF TURNING OVER POWER TO GENERAL PEREDA. THE NEWSPAPER SAYS THAT THE MILITARY AIR COLLEGE AND UNITS OF THE ARMY HAVE JOINED THE MOVEMENT WHICH REPORTEDLY HAS THE COOPERATION OF ELEMENTS OF THE 4TH AND 5TH DIVISIONS, THE FORMER LOCATED IN SOUTHERN SANTA CRUZ AND THE SECOND AT ROBORE (IN EASTERN SANTA CRUZ). GENERAL PEREDA IS REPORTED TO HAVE ARRIVED IN SANTA CRUZ AT 1400 HOURS LOCAL TIME JULY 20 AND TO HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT THE MILITARY AIR COLLEGE WHICH IS APPARENTLY PARTICIPATING IN THE PRO-PEREDA MOVEMENT, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT HE IS LEADING OR OTHERWISE PLAYING ANY ROLE IN WHAT IS HAPPENING. IN FACT, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT PEREDA MAY HAVE GONE TO SANTA CRUZ TO CALM THE SITUATION THERE.

4. ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER "THE REVOLUTIONARIES" HAVE TAKEN OVER THE PRINCIPAL COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA IN SANTA CRUZ AND CALLED UPON THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN FAVOR OF TURNING OVER POWER TO GENERAL PEREDA.

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5. THE NEWSPAPER ADDS THAT A 0200 HOURS JULY 21 GENERAL BANZER WAS IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TRYING TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN SANTA CRUZ AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER WENT TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

6. THE NEWSPAPER SAYS THAT ONE OF ITS CORRESPONDENTS IN SANTA CRUZ REPORTS THAT THE RANGER REGIMENT AND ALL OF NORTHERN SANTA CRUZ HAVE JOINED THE MOVEMENT. OTHER CITIES REPORTEDLY INVOLVED INCLUDE RIBERALTA, GUAYARAMERIN, TRINIDAD (CAPITAL OF BENI), COBIJA (CAPITAL OF THE PANDO), COCHABAMBA, TARIJA AND OTHER AREAS IN THE EAST.

7. REPORTEDLY, AT 0200 HOURS A HERCULES AND OTHER AIRCRAFT ARRIVED IN SANTA CRUZ FROM LA PAZ TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT.

8. THE NEWSPAPER SAYS THAT A MESSAGE TO THE NATION FROM GENERAL PEREDA IS SCHEDULED IN THE "NEXT FEW HOURS."

9. ACCORDING TO THE DAILY NEWSPAPER PRESENCIA "POLITICAL FORCES" OF THE UNP TOOK OVER AT 2000 HOURS JULY 20 ALL THE RADIO STATIONS IN COCHABAMBA TO BROADCAST A REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT BE TURNED OVER TO GENERAL PEREDA. SO FAR THERE IS

NO INDICATION THAT MILITARY FORCES IN COCHABAMBA HAVE PARTICIPATED
IN THIS ACTION.

10. IN LA PAZ, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE TROOP MOVEMENTS AND THE
TARAPACA REGIMENT HAS MOVED INTO THE EL ALTO AREA, WHERE THE
AIRPORT IS LOCATED, THE CITY IS GENERALLY QUIET AND MOST ACTIVITY
APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING NORMALLY.

11. COMMENT: SO FAR THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN NO MILITARY
ACTIVITY IN FAVOR OF THE PRO-PEREDA MOVEMENT OUTSIDE OF THE
CITY OF SANTA CRUZ.

12. FOR MOTEVIDEO: PLEASE ASK LABATT TO TELL AIFLD
DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAN HADDAD NOT TO TRAVEL ON TO LA PAZ
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WITHOUT CHECKING WITH EITHER DON KESSLER OR LABATT
SNYDER.
BOEKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 21 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAPAZ05742
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780300-0479
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATE OF SIEGE DECLARED IN REACTION TO REPORTED PRO-PEREDA UPRISING IN SANTA CRUZ
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
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